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## REVIEWS

ALLEN, WILLIAM H. *Modern Philanthropy*. Pp. xvi, 437. Price, \$1.50. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1912.

It was a unique opportunity that came to the Bureau of Municipal Research in New York city, when Mrs. E. H. Harriman turned over to it some 6,000 appeals for assistance which had come to her. This volume is the report of the study and recommendations based thereon, written in the bright style so characteristic of Dr. Allen. It is therefore most entertaining, though at times one's attention is disconcerted by stumbling across some sample appeal at the foot of a page or boldly thrust in the very middle of an argument. Much of the volume is so epigrammatic that it must be read in short sections.

Dr. Allen begins by describing the different types of writers—from those who want a few dollars to college presidents, asking great endowments. Then he reviews the objects desired and comes to the conclusion that these letters really indicate great public needs which should receive attention.

Part II discusses the topic of giving, indicating the author's belief that the princely giving characteristic of America is bound to increase rather than diminish. Yet wise giving is extremely difficult, and it is evident that a large percentage of gifts are not carefully planned. Hence it is argued in Part III that there should be a National Clearing House for Givers to be located naturally in New York city. Dr. Allen does not say that the Bureau of Municipal Research should do this work, but he hints pretty broadly that the Russell Sage Foundation would have amounted to more than it has, had it done this. He makes out a strong case for the existence of such a central agency. In this section the author also discusses the various methods of appeal, shows the importance of technique, modern methods. The community must be educated if the appeals are to be effective.

Part IV, a "Magna Charta for Givers," is a brief outline of the rights of givers—tersely put—among these are "the right to refuse," "the right to initiate," and "the right to information."

We have here a very thoughtful discussion of matters of vast importance. It is to be recommended alike to givers and agencies seeking gifts.

CARL KELSEY.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

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ASPINALL, A. E. *The British West Indies*. Pp. xii, 435. Price, \$3.00. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1912.

That the British West Indies have a population nearly half as large again as New Zealand and Newfoundland combined is a surprise to most of us. Once the most highly prized of English possessions because of the cane sugar estates, they have been for about a century neglected and by many considered a liability rather than an asset. But the completion of the Panama Canal, the growth of the fruit trade and the promised revival of cane sugar production have raised the hopes of Englishmen that the islands may again become prosperous and contented.

Mr. Aspinall introduces his book with a review of the romantic history of